

Amendments to the Specification

Please amend paragraphs [0011], [0012], [0014] and [0015] of the specification, without prejudice, to read as follows:

[0011] FIG. 4 shows a partly sectioned side view of the FIG. 3 detail;
FIG. 5 shows an enlarged view of a core and blade of the cutting unit of FIG. 1; and

FIG. 6 shows an enlarged view of a counter-cutting device of the cutting unit of FIG. 1[~~7~~] ; and

FIG. 7 shows schematically a dual-rod manufacturing machine supporting the FIG. 1 cutting unit.

BEST MODE FOR CARRYING OUT THE INVENTION

[0012] Number 1 in FIGS. 1 and 2 indicates as a whole a cutting unit for cutting cigarette portions 2 of given length from two parallel continuous cigarette rods 3 produced on a known dual-rod manufacturing machine M (~~not shown in FIG. 7~~) supporting cutting unit 1, the rods 3 produced by a producing unit 59.

[0014] In addition to counter-cutting device 4, cutting unit 1 also comprises a supporting body 9, which, by means of a lateral connecting plate 10, is connected integrally to a fixed frame (not shown) of the manufacturing machine M (~~not shown in FIG. 7~~), projects from said frame (not shown), and is bounded at the top by a horizontal plate 11 supporting a known cutting head 12.

[0015] With reference to FIG. 1, cutting head 12 comprises a casing 13 having a base plate 14 fitted to plate 11; and a cutting drum 15 projecting laterally from casing 13, and fitted to casing 13 to rotate, anticlockwise in FIG. 1, about an axis 16 by means of a shaft 17 housed inside casing 13 and driven by a main motor 60 (~~not shown in FIG. 7~~) of the manufacturing

machine M (~~not~~ shown in FIG. 7). Along its outer periphery, cutting drum 15 supports a number of cylindrical, substantially radial cores 18 (only one shown in FIG. 1), which are adjustable angularly about respective axes 19, and are fitted on their respective outer ends with respective known, substantially radial blades 8.